

Appl. No. : **10/787,063**
Filed : **February 25, 2004**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 10-18, 21, and 22 without prejudice to their prosecution in a continuation application:

1. **(Previously Presented)** An exhaust header for collecting exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine, the exhaust header comprising:

a plurality of flanges, each having a recessed sealing surface that is configured to circumscribe an exhaust port on an internal combustion engine, wherein the recessed sealing surface is configured so as to support therein a gasket in a manner such that at least a portion of the gasket is exposed to gas flowing out the exhaust port;

a web connecting at least two of the plurality of flanges;

a plurality of gaskets comprising graphite, each located in the recessed sealing surface and configured to form separate seals between each flange and the engine around the exhaust port;

a plurality of head pipes in flow communication with the plurality of flanges and configured to route exhaust gases from the plurality of flanges; and

a collector having a plurality of inlet ports connected to the plurality of head pipes.

2. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the flange comprises two bolt holes.

3. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 2, wherein one of the two bolt holes is open to an edge of the flange.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the flange comprises a chamfered inside surface so as to provide a transition between an inner surface of the flange and an inside diameter of the head pipe.

5. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein a depth of the recessed sealing surface is approximately 0.1 inches.

6. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the recessed sealing surface has a substantially circular shape.

7. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the recessed sealing surface has a substantially rectangular shape.

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8. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 7, wherein the graphite gasket comprises metal reinforcement.

9. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the graphite gasket has a melting temperature of at least 2000 degrees Fahrenheit.

10.- 18. **(Cancelled)**.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A method for installing an exhaust header to a substantially flat surface of a multi-cylinder engine, the exhaust header having a plurality of exhaust pipes, each exhaust pipe being configured to collect exhaust gas from a cylinder of the multi-cylinder engine, the method comprising:

providing an exhaust header having a plurality of flanges and at least one web, each flange having a recessed sealing surface, the sealing surface being configured so as to support therein a gasket in a manner such that at least a portion of the gasket is exposed to gas flowing out the exhaust port, the web connecting at least two of the plurality of flanges, wherein the sealing surface circumscribes an exhaust port from the cylinder;

placing a graphite gasket against each sealing surface in the plurality of flanges;

abutting each graphite gasket against a substantially flat surface of the multi-cylinder engine; and

individually compressing each graphite gasket against the substantially flat surface of the multi-cylinder engine so as to form a plurality of separate seals between the plurality of flanges and the substantially flat surface.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 19, wherein the graphite gasket protrudes beyond an outer surface of the flange.

21-22. **(Cancelled)**.